

Message Text

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ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15
STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01
DOE-11 SIL-01 /116 R

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EB/ITP/GCP:MBAAS
STR:AMB WOLFF

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TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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USMTN

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:ETRD, TW

SUBJECT:US-ROC TRADE NEGOTIATIONS
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REFERENCE: (A) STATE 086134 OF APRIL 9, 1976
(B) TAIPEI 4691 OF JULY 13, 1976
(C) STATE 194674 OF AUGUST 5, 1976
(D) TAIPEI 1271 OF MARCH 2, 1978

1. AS EMBASSY IS AWARE, ROC, WHILE NOT PARTICIPATING IN

CURRENT TOKYO ROUND NEGOTIATIONS, NETHERLESS STANDS TO BENEFIT FROM MFN IMPLEMENTATION OF MTN CONCESSIONS. AS MTN MOVES INTO FINAL NEGOTIATING PHASE, THIS SEEMS AN APPROPRIATE TIME TO LAUNCH PARALLEL BUT SEPARATE SERIES OF BILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH ROC.

2. REF A AND B RECORD EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THEN-STR DENT AND ROC MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS SUN IN WHICH LATTER COMMITTED ROC "TO MAKE SUCH APPROPRIATE RECIPROCAL CONCESSIONS AS ARE OFFERED BY OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES" IN THE MTN. MORE RECENTLY, POSSIBILITY OF SUCH TALKS WAS RAISED WITH LEADER OF TAIWAN BUYING MISSION, BOFT DIRECTOR-GENERAL SHAO, BY DEPUTY STR WOLFF AND COMMERCE ASSISTANT SECRETARY WEIL. IN BOTH INSTANCES, SHAO INDICATED THAT ROC WOULD LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING US

INVITATION TO BILATERAL TRADE TALKS. IN COMMERCE MEETING, HE URGED THAT US COMMUNICATE WITH ROC AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. REF D INDICATES THAT SHAO HAS NOW CARRIED MESSAGE HOME TO THE GROC.

3. EMBASSY IS THEREFORE REQUESTED TO TRANSMIT FOLLOWING TEXT BY LETTER WITH APPROPRIATE SALUTATION AND CLOSING FROM AMBASSADOR ALAN WOLFF TO MINISTER SUN:

" I REFER TO AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES IN 1976 WITH AMBASSADOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DENT ON THE SUBJECT OF THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS IN WHICH YOU INDICATED THAT THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA WOULD BE READY TO MAKE APPROPRIATE RECIPROCAL CONCESSIONS.

" THE MTN HAS NOW ENTERED THE CRUCIAL FINAL NEGOTIATING STAGE: IN JANUARY THE US AND OTHER MAJOR DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TABLED OFFERS COVERING AGRICULTURE, NON-TARIFF MEASURES, AND INDUSTRIAL TARIFFS IN ADDITION TO THE US OFFER ON TROPICAL PRODUCTS TABLED PREVIOUSLY. MOREOVER, THE GATT SECRETARIAT HAS NOW CIRCULATED DRAFT CODES AND PROPOSALS ON A VARIETY OF OTHER TOPICS UNDER NEGOTIATION, INCLUDING SAFEGUARDS, SUBSIDIES AND COUNTERVAILING DUTIES, GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, CUSTOMS EVALUATION AND LICENSING PRACTICES, AS WELL AS VARIOUS PROPOSALS FOR REFORM OF THE FRAMEWORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADING SYSTEM. THE US POSITION HAS BEEN THAT OUR OFFERS WILL NOT BE MAINTAINED UNLESS COUNTRIES WHICH ARE PRINCIPAL BENEFICIARIES OF OUR OFFERS MAKE MEANINGFUL CONCESSIONS.

" THIS MONTH, WE HAVE BEGUN IN EARNEST BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH OUR TRADING PARTNERS, WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION BEING GIVEN TO THE NEEDS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRY PARTICI-

PANTS.

" THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS HAS THUS REACHED THE POINT WHERE WE CAN ASSESS WITH SOME ACCURACY THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF MTN-NEGOTIATED REFORMS ON NON-PARTICIPANTS, AND WHERE REQUESTS AND OFFERS FROM NON-PARTICIPANTS MUST BE FACTORED INTO THE FINAL AGREEMENT. FOR THIS REASON, IT SEEMS APPROPRIATE THAT THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA INITIATE BILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THESE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD THEN BE ABLE TO MOVE IN PARALLEL WITH THE MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS BEING WORKED OUT IN GENEVA.

"IF YOU AG-EE, WE WILL PROVIDE YOUR NEGOTIATORS WITH IN-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FORMATION REGARDING THE US OFFERS TO DATE. AT THAT TIME, WE WOULD ALSO BE PLEASED TO RECEIVE REQUESTS FROM YOU REGARDING CONCESSIONS

ON ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO TAIWAN. THE US WOULD THEN SUBMIT A LIST OF REQUESTED CONCESSIONS ON ITEMS OF EXPORT INTEREST ON WHICH WE WOULD BE EXPECTING RECIPROCAL CONCESSIONS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

"THE US IS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO CONCLUSION OF THE MTN NEGOTIATIONS BY MID-JULY, AND WE FEEL STRONGLY THAT THE US-ROC NEGOTIATIONS MUST BE LAUNCHED VERY SOON. WITHIN THIS FRAMEWORK, WE WOULD WELCOME ANY SUGGESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE REGARDING TIMING AND VENUE FOR THE TALKS."

4. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO REPORT ROC REPLY AS SOON AS RECEIVED. FYI: WE EXPECT TO FORWARD IN THE NEAR FUTURE LIST OF US OFFERS TO EMBASSY FOR TRANSMISSION TO ROC GOVERNMENT. PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF US OFFERS TO ROC (FOR EMBASSY INFORMATION ONLY) BEING SENT BY CLASSIFIED POUCH LEAVING DEPARTMENT ON MARCH 15. VANCE

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